

REMARKS

Claims 1-4 and 12-40 are pending in the application. Claims 1-4, 12-25, and 29-31 are allowed. Claims 26-28 and 32-40 stand rejected. Claims 26-28, 32, 33, and 41-85 are being cancelled. No new matter is being introduced by way of these amendments.

Part 1 of the Office Action acknowledges that Applicants have elected Group I without traverse.

Part 2 of the Office Action lists the status of each claim in the present application.

Part 3 of the Office Action acknowledges Substitute Specification filed on December 15, 2005 and requests related application information be updated with current information.

Part 4 of the Office Action states the title of the invention is not descriptive.

Part 5 of the Office Action requests Applicants proofread the specification for errors. Applicants, in preparation for this Amendment, reviewed entire application for typographical errors, accuracy, assurance of proper use for trademarks, and other legal symbols.

Part 6-13 of the Office Action rejects Claims 26-28 and 32-40 under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Reid (U.S. Patent No. 6,233,616).

Part 14 of the Office Action allows Claims 1-4, 12-25 and 29-31 over the art of record because the art of record fails to teach or remotely suggest posing as a network node having an IP address considered by nodes on the subnet as being external from the subnet in the manner so claimed.

Part 15 of the Office Action states a complete reply to the final rejection must include cancellation of nonelected claims.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants thank the Examiner for indicating Claims 1-4, 12-25 and 29-31 are allowable.

Regarding Amendment to Specification

Applicants amend the Specification to update the related application information within the Specification to include current information. No new matter is added by way of this amendment.

Regarding Objection to Title

The title of the invention is "Method and Apparatus for Automatic Network Address Assignment." The preamble of Claim 1 recites "[a] method for automatically assigning a network address to a given network node" Similar descriptions are used in the other independent claim preambles. Accordingly, in view of the limitations in the independent claims, Applicants believe that the title of the invention is indicative of the invention to which the claims are directed and, therefore, respectfully request that the objection to the title be withdrawn. Should the Office feel otherwise, Applicants hereby request an Examiner's interview to discuss this objection.

Regarding 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) Rejections

Claims 26-28 and 32-40 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Reid (U.S. Patent No. 6,233,616).

Claims 26-28, 32, and 33 are being cancelled. Applicants do not acquiesce to the rejection and reserve the right to file a continuing application or take such other appropriate action as deemed necessary to protect the subject matter of the cancelled claims. Applicants do not hereby abandon or waive any rights in the subject matter of the cancelled claims.

The Office Action, in part 14, states claims 1-4, 12-25 and 29-31 "stand allowable over the art of record since the art of record fails to teach or remotely suggest posing as a network node having an IP address considered by nodes on the subnet as being external from the subnet in the manner so claimed," emphasis added. Applicants agree the claims are allowable for at least this reason.

Independent claims 34 and 38 recite similar elements ("posing as a network node...external from the subnet") as the allowed subject matter and should be allowed for at least similar reasons as cited above. Because claims 35-37 depend from claim 34; and claims 39-40 depend from claim 38, these claims should be allowed for at least the same reasons. Applicants hereby request an Examiner's interview should the rejection of the independent claims be maintained.

Regarding Nonelected Claims

Applicants cancel claims 41-85 which are directed at nonelected subject matter. Applicants reserve the right to file a continuing application or take such other appropriate action as deemed necessary to protect the subject matter of the cancelled claims. Applicants do not hereby abandon or waive any rights in the subject matter of the cancelled claims.

After entry of this amendment, in an event any objections or rejections remain, Applicants kindly request an Examiner's interviewer. If an Examiner's interview is required, Applicants kindly request the Examiner contact the undersigned.

CONCLUSION

In view of the above amendments and remarks, it is believed that all claims that will be pending after entry of this amendment (claims 1-4, 12-25, 29-31, and 34-40) are in condition for allowance, and it is respectfully requested that the application be passed to issue. If the Examiner feels that a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this case, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

HAMILTON, BROOK, SMITH & REYNOLDS, P.C.

By Mark B. Solomon
Mark B. Solomon
Registration No. 44,348
Telephone: (978) 341-0036
Facsimile: (978) 341-0136

Concord, MA 01742-9133

Dated: 3/5/07